Agreement between U.S. and China on Nuclear Programme

*129. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an agreement reached between the U.S. and China regarding U.S. aid to China's nuclear programme;

(b) whether China is helping development of Pakistani nuclear programme;

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to further strengthen country's defence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Government has conveyed to the Chinese authorities its concern over China's assistance to Pakistan's clandestine nuclear weapons programme. India had also underlined to China the importance of paying adequate attention to each other's concerns on vital issues affecting each other's security and territorial integrity.

(d) Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard its security and national interest in accordance with its assessment of developments relating to India's security environment.

Discrimination against direct recruit scientists BARC

*130. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scientists of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre have accused the institute of discriminating against the direct recruits in as much as they are being deprived of special previleges otherwise given to Scientists graduating from the BARC Training School;

(b) if so, whether their accusation is correct; and

(c) if so, the reason for which such a treatment is meted out to the direct recruit scientists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) No, Sir. The service conditions and promotion norms are applicable universally to all scientists and engineers of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and other Units of the Department of Atomic Energy. The norms regulating their service conditions including promotion and deputation are well established and always under constant review. Merit and performance have been the guiding factor in all these decisions. There could be isolated cases of grievances which are looked into as and when they come to notice.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Report of the High Power Task Force

*131. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the Report of the High Power Task Force appointed to identify additional 10,000 MW capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, by when the Report would be finalised;

(d) the number of other power projects pending clearance;

(e) the reasons for their pendency; and

(f) by when they would be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Task Force has categorised projects on the basis of their